



April 21, 2021



Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes

Present: John Ferri, Betty Law, Kevin Sellner, Bill Steigelman, Jennifer Bird, Faith Klareich, Tiffany Fossett, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Jim Reed

OSER staff: Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher, Kim Campbell, Linda Williamson, Jeremy Joiner

Guests/Public: Paul Walker, Sierra Club

Meeting Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Betty Law and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

The March meeting minutes were reviewed by the Commission. Bill moved to approve the Open Session minutes. Betty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Ron moved to approve the Closed Session minutes. Bill seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Presentation on Creek Re-Leaf – Jeremy Joiner and Linda Williamson:

- Creek Re-Leaf, A Frederick County Reforestation Program managed by OSER.
 - Multi-year program to plant trees on private and public lands to provide stormwater control, reduce stream temps, and provide MS4 credits.
 - This is a voluntary program for landowners.
 - All properties inside Frederick County but outside towns with their own MS4 permits are eligible; however, 2 acres must be available for planting. Priority is given to properties with streams.
 - The County provides 5 years of maintenance and then turns responsibility for maintaining the easement to the property owners. The easement is forever.
 - The County pays 75% of the appraisal value with a \$9000/acre cap for the area in the easement.
 - Eligible property types: lawn, stream buffers, agricultural land.
 - Unacceptable planting areas: utility lines, steep banks, instream, other easements.
 - There is a yearly application period.

- Properties are researched, visited, and ranked.
- Planting occurs in the appropriate season after settlement.
- The owners have input into tree species chosen from an approved list.
- This year the County anticipates 30 acres of planting on private land and 96 acres on county land.
- After sites are ranked, the Technical Committee and Sustainability Commission review the yearly ranking report.
- The planting involves planting of several rows, as opposed to a single row of trees.
- Questions and discussions were provided by Paul Walker of the Sierra Club.
- An FCSC workgroup will review the Creek Releaf report and will provide our recommendations on May 12 and they will be discussed at the May meeting.
- Once approved by FCSC and the Technical Committee, the proposed properties will be appraised.

Subcommittees – All:

- South Frederick Corridor – Faith
 - The South Frederick Corridor scoping group have been involved since the Charette.
 - Presentations of concepts were made in review sessions.
 - Break out groups focused on timelines, planning areas (mixed used, green space, employment areas), transition zones from the city boundary into the corridor, or from the Monocacy Battlefield into the corridor, etc.
 - A number of groups focused on green spaces. Considered how to re-enforce concepts of walking and bicycling.
 - Considered what redevelopment of the mall would look like.
 - Considered green building concepts.
 - Discussed the possibility of High Tech in the corridor.
 - FCSC members noted that there was little focus on Livable Frederick and that should have been more forefront in the discussions.
- Creek Re-leaf – Bill
 - Bill will be the point person for the Creek Re-leaf review.
- Sustainability Awards – Betty
 - Betty will be the point person for sustainability awards.
 - Nominations are now live for Earth Day.
 - Applications are due on June 1.
 - Individual, non profit, students/student groups, or enterprises
 - Not sure if the ceremony will be virtual or in person.
- Healthy Buildings/Carbon Monoxide – Betty
 - Sierra Club shared the flyer with their newsletter.

- Hoping the county will distribute as well, maybe through electronic means?
- Sugarloaf Mountain Corridor – Betty
 - Mark is the point person.

Possible New Subcommittees – All:

- Community Outreach
 - Consider participation in community events with interactive activities or through outreach materials.
 - FCSC should consider how this committee would comply with our workplan, and members can volunteer.
- Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT)
 - Various green energy and energy efficient initiatives.
 - C-PACE could be a part of this committee's initiatives, but other green energy initiatives could be reviewed and promoted.
 - Bill made a motion to change the name of the PACE Committee to the GREAT committee. Faith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OSER Updates

- The County is partnering with the DMV region for a regional solar coop.
 - Would like to consider how those with low and moderate incomes could benefit.
- County Executive will provide a virtual Earth Day event April 22 announcing new County initiatives.
- OSER is hiring for an Engineering Technician position and a Project Manager I or II.
- Three ponds are in construction through the retrofit program.
- There is a new PACE loan issued for \$2.4million for a new VA Logistics facility.
- A grant was awarded to the County for a solar canopy at the Bourne Building. It will power 15% of the building's utility usage as well as new EVs.
- Saturday May 1st is a Ballenger Creek Cleanup.
- Earth Day tips on Facebook all month.
- Proposed budget for FY22 - \$9million+
 - Watershed and sustainability budgets included
 - SWM retrofits
 - Reforestation
 - Stream Restoration
 - Non-County owned SWM retrofits

Commission Member Items of Interest

- Kevin – CEMWG (Climate Emergency Working Group)
 - Richard Griffin, City Office of Economic Development presented regarding the City's plan for future infrastructure
 - Generally communities look for more bang for the buck in projects, but this doesn't promote equity for those in need.
 - Frederick City will be a pilot study as an opportunity to determine if an equity index would be a useful tool to determine where to put green infrastructure.
 - Recommendation statements from the group were due May 7th, and now deep dive into those recommendations.
 - Looking for more opportunities for stakeholder involvement
- Ron
 - Group of media organizations working on getting more climate change to the public, look at coveringclimatenow.org
 - Ron may be on EV segment on PBS News Hour
 - EV group creating a series of videos on Montgomery County Green Fest site
- Bill
 - Gathering information and writing recommendations for the EBT group
- Betty
 - City states it will look for Alternatives for the road through Area B in Comprehensive Plan; however, *the city will not look for alternatives until it is refused permission to build in Area B*
 - Consider that elections for the City Alderman are upcoming

Public Comments:

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2021.